

## Toxicity Reduction display kit



The toxicity reduction display kit helps educators explain how to identify household chemicals and the importance of properly disposing of household chemicals. The display also offers healthy alternatives to replace toxic household chemicals. The kit is contained in a single plastic storage box. The display kit is adaptable for groups of all ages and sizes. The display contains:

- Examples of household chemicals that should be recycled at The Recycling Zone
- Examples of non-toxic household cleaning ingredients
- Print materials offering alternative household cleaners recipes and resources to recycling household chemicals

**Objective:** Individuals can identify household hazardous waste (including electronic waste, cleaners, pesticides, vehicle batteries, and motor oil) and understand how to properly dispose of hazardous items.

**Overview:** The Toxicity Reduction display will increase the individual's knowledge on what is a household chemical and where to properly dispose of household chemicals in Dakota County. The Toxicity Reduction display will provide alternatives to household chemicals. A desired outcome is that individuals will take what they learn home, dispose of household chemicals properly, and choose alternatives to toxic household products.

### Background information:

We are exposed to chemicals in our daily lives from our food, our homes and at work. Only a fraction of the more than 75,000 registered chemicals have undergone complete testing for human health concerns (USEPA). Every day, we come into contact with household chemicals (or household hazardous waste). According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) more than 92 percent of the 2.4 million poison exposures reported occur in the home. Unused or unwanted household chemicals found in the house need to be or disposed of properly once their usefulness runs out. Improper disposal of common household chemicals, such as pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or throwing them in the trash can cause harm to people and the environment. In Dakota County, 90% of residents get water from ground water, improper disposal of household chemicals can lead to ground water contamination.

The best way to determine the potential hazard in a household product is to read the label. Signal words are required by law to be on the labels of hazardous products. These words will show you how hazardous the product is.

Signal words on labels include:

- **Caution:** Is the least toxic, meaning that the product will not be fatal if swallowed, but could cause some other sort of irritation to your body; such as skin irritation or cause you to become ill.
- **Warning:** Moderately hazardous.
- **Danger:** Danger means that a product is highly toxic, flammable, or corrosive. Look for the word "danger" on cleaners, polishes, paint strippers and pesticides. "Danger" means the product could poison you, cause serious damage to your skin or eyes, or easily cause a fire.
- **Poison:** Poison indicates the highest hazard level. Poison means that a product is highly toxic, and can cause injury or death if ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin

Look for these signal words on household products and select the least harmful product you can find that will do the job. Read the labels on products and ask yourself whether a safer or less-hazardous product could work.

The Dakota County Recycling Zone is the local drop-off facility for household chemicals that do not belong in trash or recycling bins. From fluorescent light bulbs to paint to cleaning supplies, residents can safely dispose of household items at The Recycling Zone. Household chemicals should be properly labeled and in their original containers if possible.

***Never mix household chemicals together.***

One of the best ways to avoid household chemical exposure is to use non-toxic cleaners. Dakota County's ***A Guide to Healthy Household Cleaners*** is a helpful resource for easy, effective, and inexpensive recipes and tips for household cleaning and maintenance.

***For Residents at The Recycling Zone*** brochure for details.

#### **Supplies and Materials:**

The following materials are available for a display/booth with or without an educator:

- Dakota County ***Why Detoxify?*** floor/tabletop banner
- Sample green cleaner ingredients
- Household chemicals Show & Tell
- Print materials
  - ***For Residents at The Recycling Zone*** brochure
  - ***A Guide to Healthy Household Cleaners*** booklet

#### **Dakota County *Why Detoxify?* floor/tabletop banner**

##### **Contents:**

- One (1) carrying case
- One (1) retractable banner
- One (1) retractable pole

##### **Dimensions**

- 36" wide x 85" tall – floor height
- 36" wide x 60" tall – tabletop height
- 36" x 12" deep in carrying case
- Approximately 15 pounds

##### **Instructions**

- Pull from base to desired height (floor height shown below)
- Insert one end of the retractable pole into the clip on the top of the sign
- Insert the opposite end of the retractable pole into the hole on the banner base



## Non-toxic home cleaning ingredients

### Contents:

- Baking soda
- Borax
- Lemon juice
- Plant-based dish soap
- Sponges
- Vegetable oil
- Vinegar

### Instructions

- Display contains items that can be used for household cleaning (see *A Guide to Healthy Household Cleaners* booklet for recipes and tips)



## Household Chemical Show & Tell

### Contents:

- Display signs
  - Bring household chemicals to The Recycling Zone
- Household chemical samples
  - Carpet cleaner
  - Drain cleaner
  - Floor cleaner
  - Stain remover

### Instructions

- Display contains examples of household cleaning products (see ***For Residents at The Recycling Zone*** brochure for a complete list of household chemicals accepted at The Recycling Zone).



### Print Materials

***For Residents at The Recycling Zone*** brochure (four page, 5 ½" x8")

### Instructions

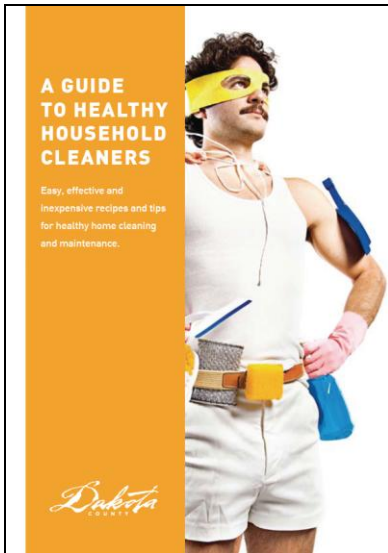
- Offer the brochure to residents for a complete listing of household chemicals accepted, collection hours and directions to The Recycling Zone
- Contact Dakota County Environmental Management for desired quantities



***A Guide to Healthy Household Cleaners* booklet (28 pages, 5 ½" x 8 ½ ")**

**Instructions**

- Offer the booklet as a resource to residents searching for non-toxic household cleaner recipes and tips
- Contact Dakota County Environmental Management for desired quantities



**NOTE:** Dakota County provides a number of resources for teachers, students, community groups, and other organizations to help with education and outreach on a variety of environmental topics. The resources are available for check out to formal and informal educators in Dakota County for a maximum of three weeks. To reserve education resources, please contact us at 952-891-7000. Environmental education resources include:

- Educational display kits for The Recycling Zone, residential recycling, toxicity reduction, and waste reduction
- Educational activity kits for Recycling BINGO, make a green cleaner, and Recycling Wheel
- Learning kits for recycling and groundwater
- Pull-up banners for toxicity reduction, The Recycling Zone, residential recycling, waste reduction, and waste reuse